



Big Sky Libraries

Number 57 July/August, 1998

Montana State Library [MSL]

Inside:

A Word from Our
State Librarian
Karen's Schedule
Directory Changes
Interlibrary Loan [ILL]
Workshops
Training for Library Trustees
Around the State
Washington D.C. Visit
Library Services and Technology
Act [LSTA] Update
Paraprofessional Interest
Group Update
Notes from MSL
Spotlight: Susan Merrin,
Coordinator of Volunteers

New Acquisitions at MSL

Budgeting for Information Access, Managing the Resource Budget for Absolute Access, by Murray S. Martin and Milton T. Wolf

American Indian Library Services in Perspective, by Elizabeth Rockefeller-MacArthur with Ruth Rockefeller and Philip MacArthur

Fundraising and Friend-Raising on the Web, by Adam Corson-Finnerty, Laura Blanchard

Exploring and Upgrading Your PC, edited by Barbara Gordon

Library Story Hour from A to Z, by Ellen K. Hasbrouck

Four Montana Libraries Get Good News

Voters in Park and Teton Counties approved a mil levy increase and establishment for library services, while voters in Roundup and Columbia Falls defeated an anti-pornography initiative that would have made it possible for librarians to be prosecuted.

The Roundup Community voted 329 against and 235 for the "Harmful to Minors" Initiative. In Columbia Falls the ordinance was rejected 297 to 232.

According to David Ellefsen, Director of the Flathead County Library System, the Columbia Falls proponents of the initiative asked the city council to put the failed initiative back on the fall 1998 ballot. However, the city council rejected this proposal. Ellefsen said, "It will no doubt come up again."

Of the vote on the "Harmful to Minors" initiative in Roundup, Dale R. Alger, Roundup Community Library said, "I am glad that it failed because it was a measure that would have had serious implications in terms of censorship. It should be the family that has the say over what their children read." Alger also stated that the paper published a letter to the editor from the library board which helped defeat the measure.

In Park County, voters approved a library levy increase of up to 2.5 mils. The budget increase will allow the library to renew the service contract on the furnace and pay for other maintenance. They will also be able to rebuild the reserve fund and increase the collection budget. Milla Cummins, Livingston-Park County Public Library Director, stated, "One of the things that was encouraging was that despite the fact that the request did not promise an

(GOOD NEWS - Continued on page 2)

Calendar

July 28	Advisory Council Meeting - Helena
August 5	Law Revision Task Force Meeting - Helena
August 12-15	Pacific Northwest Library Association Conf. - Sun Valley, ID
August 12	MSL Commission Meeting - Whitefish
September 7	Labor Day - State Holiday
October 1,	Commission Meeting - Miles City
October 12	Columbus Day - State Holiday

A Word From Our State Librarian



During the fall of 1996, I traveled around the state and asked you what the State Library should do during the next five years. I heard two answers loudly and clearly. You wanted the State Library to be a leader in technology and to provide quality training.

I was very excited to hear these two answers repeated across the state because their repetition created a clear direction for the State Library. I was also happy to know that I was in the company of learners who like to confront new ideas, attitudes, skills, and behaviors. Learning means changing and growth, for us personally as well as collectively.

These answers guided the content of the State Library's five-year plan which the Commission adopted about a year ago. We have started to evaluate how we met or missed the marks that we set for ourselves during the last year. We found we moved in

the direction that you set.

We attempted to become leaders in library and information technology by using federal funds to hire two additional technology consultants, to connect all public libraries to the Internet, and to offer training to project libraries. We started organizing statewide purchases of electronic products. The Networking Task Force is researching ways in which to make resource sharing easier, faster, and to level the lending load in Montana.

We also made progress in beginning to meet your training needs. The newly constituted Library Development Department Team has proposed the following yearly training opportunities: The Offline Retreat in late winter; the MLA Conference in spring; a Summer Institute for librarians without formal library training; and a day-long fall training session. Of course, the first two opportunities are already established, but we will begin the fall event in 1999 and the Summer Institute in 2000. More immediate training plans include interlibrary loan workshops in the fall and trustees' workshops at fall Federation meetings.

We still have a distance to go to claim that we're a leader in technology and the provider of high quality training to Montana's library community - but our evaluation of last year's efforts show us that we are moving forward on the path that you inscribed for the State Library.



Karen's Schedule:

July 24 - Bozeman-Public
Library Directors Meeting
July 28 - Helena, Library
Advisory Council
July 29 - Bozeman-MLA
Board Meeting
July 31 - State Librarians'
Focus Group-WLN, Seattle
August 11-13 - Whitefish-
Commission Meeting

Directory Changes

Page 2: MSL Commission - David Johnson, e-mail:
djohnson@crowleylaw.com

Pages 3&4: All MSL e-mail addresses ending in @msl.mt.gov are now: @msl.state.mt.us, all those ending in @nris.mt.gov are now: @nris.state.mt.us
NRIS home page:
<http://nris.state.mt.us>

Page 13: Colstrip Bicentennial Library, correct fax number:
406-748-2659

Page 17: Whitefish Branch Library, address: 9 Spokane Ave, zip code: 59937-2551

Laurel Public Library, Peggy Arnold's e-mail: pnott@mt.lib.org

Page 45: Malta Jr/Sr High School, Penny Lind, e-mail:
7boots@3rivers.net

Page 57: Billings Business College - Barbara Brazington new e-mail:
bbrazing@commonwealth.edu
Assistant Librarian: Ellen Cushing, e-mail:
ecushing@commonwealth.edu

Rocky Mountain College, Bill Kehler new e-mail:
ehlerb@rocky.edu

Page 66: McLaughlin Research Institute, Barbara Crain, phone number 406-454-6007

GOOD NEWS (Continued from page 1)

increase in services, the levy passed. The people understood that without this increase we would have been \$25,000 short on our budget because of a change in county funding. We would have had to eliminate staff, which would have meant having to close the doors one day a week." The vote was 65% in favor of the library levy.

Interlibrary Loan [ILL] Workshops

In June, MSL sent a mailing to all Montana libraries concerning the proposed changes in interlibrary loan protocols developed by the MLA ILL Interest Group. These protocols will be acted upon by the MSL Commission at its August meeting in Whitefish. The Commission has approved the use of LSTA fiscal year 1998 funds to present six interlibrary loan workshops in September to help ILL librarians learn more about changes to the protocols.

Below is the schedule for the upcoming ILL workshops [*please note that the workshops in Billings and Miles City are on dates different from those listed in the June MSL mailing]:

- September 15th Butte [Butte-Silver Bow Public Library]
- September 16th *Billings [Parmly Billings Library]
- September 17th Polson [Polson City Library]
- September 22nd Great Falls [Great Falls Public Library]
- September 23rd *Miles City [Holiday Inn Express]
- September 24th Glasgow [Cottonwood Inn]

In the next few weeks, information will be sent out concerning registration for these workshops. Mileage and lunch expenses for one librarian from each library will be paid with LSTA grant funds. Efforts will be made to form car pools to minimize travel expenses. Workshop sessions will be videotaped so that librarians unable to attend one of the scheduled sessions may view the tape to learn about the protocol changes. Attendance at a workshop or viewing the tape of the session can be used to demonstrate competency. If you have questions about the ILL workshops, please contact Sue Jackson, Federal Grants and Institutions Consultant, 1-800-338-5087, or e-mail her at: sjackson@msl.state.mt.us.

Training for Library Trustees

In the last issue of Big Sky Libraries, MSL announced upcoming workshops for trustees scheduled for this fall. All dates and places are now confirmed: [*indicates a workshop that will be presented as part of the federation's regular fall meeting]

- Broad Valleys Federation
Sept. 26th in Helena*
- South Central Federation
Sept. 26th in Billings*
- Tamarack Federation
Oct. 1st in Darby*
- Sagebrush Federation
October 3rd in Miles City*
- Golden Plains Federation
Oct. 6th in Wolf Point
- Pathfinder Federation
October 8th in Cut Bank*

These workshops will be presented by MSL staff and others on topics of special interest to public library trustees. Please plan to attend!

Around the State

Arden Hill, who was the director the the Malmstrom Air Force Base Library for many years, passed away on June 9th from lung cancer. She had retired last year.

Plains District Library hosted an open house to introduce and explain the new Internet service to library patrons. The local connections were provided through grants from the LSTA program. The library requires a signed consent form before access is allowed.

Hearst Free Library in Anaconda celebrated its 100th birthday in June. Congratulations!

Prairie County Library in Terry now has access to the Internet thanks to an LSTA grant.

Whitefish Branch Library moved into its new building with the help of 180 sixth-grade students. It took two days to make the move.

The libraries at Polson, Ronan and Hot Springs each received \$20,000 from an anonymous donor. The Polson funds will be invested and the library will receive the interest. In Ronan the donation went directly to the library for current needs. In Hot Springs the money was added to the newly formed Preston Hot Springs Library Memorial Foundation.

The Harlowton Public Library and the Twin Bridges Public Library have both received grants from the Libri Foundation to help purchase children's books.

Washington, D.C. Visit



Mary Doggett, Commissioner; Senator Max Baucus, Karen Stege, State Librarian; Mike Schulz, Commissioner; and Lois Fitzpatrick, MLA Government Affairs Committee Chair

On May 4 and 5, Mike Schulz and Mary Doggett, MSL Commissioners; Lois Fitzpatrick, MLA Government Affairs Committee Chair; and Karen Stege, State Librarian, were in Washington, D.C. to update Montana's Congressional delegation on library issues. The four attended a briefing session given by ALA's Washington Office staff, then visited Senators Conrad Burns and Max Baucus, and Representative Rick Hill. The group talked to Montana's delegation about the importance of Federal Funding for all libraries, the need for the E-Rate in Montana's schools and public libraries, and the need for copyright legislation that balances the needs of authors and publishers with that of the public. Montana's congressional delegation displayed a knowledge of these issues and their impacts on their constituents. The delegation was warmly received in each office.

Library Services and Technology Act [LSTA] Update

Phase I of the LSTA Internet Connectivity Project is coming to a close. The project, funded by fiscal year 1998 LSTA grant money, began in February with the identification of public libraries in Montana not yet having Internet access. Grant agreements are in place with sixteen of those libraries, enabling them to use a combination of LSTA and local funds to purchase equipment and pay monthly phone and Internet fees. Public libraries participating in the project are located in Big Timber, Boulder, Chinook, Circle, Conrad, Harlem, Hot Springs, Joliet, Jordan, Malta, Philipsburg, Scobey, Thompson Falls, Three Forks, Terry, and Valier. Congratulations to all of these libraries and welcome to the NET!

Phase II of the Internet Connectivity Project will begin in August to assist selected public libraries to upgrade their Internet access. The guidelines for this phase limit participation to those libraries that serve a population of 3,000 or more patrons and now have dial-up Internet access, but wish to upgrade to direct Internet access. MSL staff are currently working to identify all libraries that meet these guidelines. Contact Magi Malone, MSL Statewide Technology Librarian,

Paraprofessional Interest Group Update

by Rita Gibson

The Montana Library Paraprofessionals sponsored their first workshop at the MLA Convention in Missoula. The six speakers were paraprofessionals and degreed librarians who envision bringing MLS Library Technical Assistant degree programs to Montana. Discussion included ways to make paraprofessional work a satisfying "career." A videotape of the workshop will be available soon for interlibrary loan from the Montana State Library.

Around 30 attended the interest group business meeting. Rita Gibson was elected chair for the coming year. MLA's webpage will be the group's primary method of keeping everyone informed of our activities [<http://www.mtlib.org>]. Contact Rita Gibson [rkgibson@hotmail.com], 2730 Bandera, East Helena, MT 59635.



Notes From MSL

JUNE COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The Commission approved a proposal to fund interlibrary loan workshops from FY 1998 LSTA funds, pay expenses for an evaluation of the Last Copy Fiction Pool, add funds to the Technology Consultants project to pay for unanticipated start-up costs, and to move the balance of 1998 funds to next year's budget. They approved a proposal to use FY 1999 LSTA funds to fund a library consolidation project in Madison County and a fall workshop for librarians in 1999. The Commission postponed a decision on the expenditure of the bulk of the federal funds pending a recommendation from the Advisory Council.

The Commission will meet at the new Whitefish Library on August 12. Librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries in Northwestern Montana are encouraged to attend.

The Commission asked that the following draft mission statement be publicized to solicit opinions. Please send suggestions or comments to Karen Strege at the State Library by August 10, 1998.

DRAFT Mission Statement

The Montana State Library Commission was created by the Montana Legislature in 1929. The Membership includes five members appointed by the Governor and one member each appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designee. Each term of appointment is for three years. The Montana State Library Commission is responsible for all the programs and services offered by the Montana State Library, library development in all Montana public libraries, and the distribution and administration of all federal and state aid to libraries.

The Commission believes that open access to information is the key to the development of an educated citizenry that is required for a strong democratic society. The Commission values human development, intellectual freedom, public service and network development for continuous learning.

The Commission is a catalyst for active, positive and progressive development and support of all libraries in Montana. The Commission advocates for strong libraries in Montana and encourages multi-type library cooperation throughout the state.

NETWORKING TASK FORCE: The Networking Task Force welcomes Nancy Brennan of the Bicentennial Library of Colstrip to its ranks. Nancy will be representing small libraries and replaced Karyn Brown, who has resigned as Fallon County Library Director.

LAW REVISION TASK FORCE: The Law Revision Task Force also brought a new member on board. The new member is Dennis Taylor, City Manager of Helena, who joins Marcella Tart in representing the League of Cities and Towns. The task force last met on June 3 and discussed the Commission's action on proposed changes in Montana's library law.

CHANGES AT MSL: Jim Stimson, who was the Water Information System Coordinator for the Natural Resource Information System [NRIS] at MSL, has accepted the NRIS Director's position. NRIS also had two resignations: Fred Gifford, Geographic Information System Coordinator and Michael Bloom, System Administrator. Dana Ruby, Technology Consultant in the State Library Services Department of MSL, has also resigned, effective August 1, 1998.



Jim Stimson,
new NRIS Director

The address of MSL's web pages has changed. The URL for the MSL homepage is now: <http://msl.state.mt.us>. Please change your links and bookmarks. Also, the address for all MSL employees whose e-mail address ended in @msl.mt.gov has changed. All those addresses will now end with @msl.state.mt.us. NRIS e-mail addresses, which use to end with @nriss.mt.gov are now @nriss.state.mt.us. Please change your address books. The old web and e-mail addresses will continue to work for a few months and then be phased out.





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**Big Sky Libraries is a publication of the
Montana State Library**

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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Spotlight: Susan Merrin Coordinator of Volunteers

Susan [Susie] Merrin was hired on May 12, 1998 as the new Coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Montana State Library. She comes to the Montana Talking Book Library with over twenty years experience working with volunteers in a variety of settings. She is a native of southwestern Montana and resides in Helena.

Susie taught high school English, history and social science, served in the U.S. Army as an electronics technician and has been chaplain assistant in the Army Reserves for the past eight years. After leaving the Army Susie installed computers for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. She moved on to be a supervisor of the Helena United Way Volunteers in Service to American [VISTA] project from 1993 to 1996. She has been coordinator of lay-ministry in her congregation. As a pastoral assistant,

she has been actively involved with the local jail chaplaincy, nursing homes, hospital and other organizations dealing with hunger, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS. She has also edited a couple of local interest autobiographies.



Susie's diverse background gives her all the skills she needs to do the Volunteer Coordinator job. While her reading interests are eclectic, she is familiar with Montana authors and works about Montana. Through her background in electronics she is familiar with the tape-recording, duplicating and playing equipment that she and the volunteers must use. She is a good editor, and she has a great background in working with volunteers! Susie can

be reached at 406-444-5398 or 1-800-332-3400, or you can e-mail her at smerrin@msl.state.mt.us.